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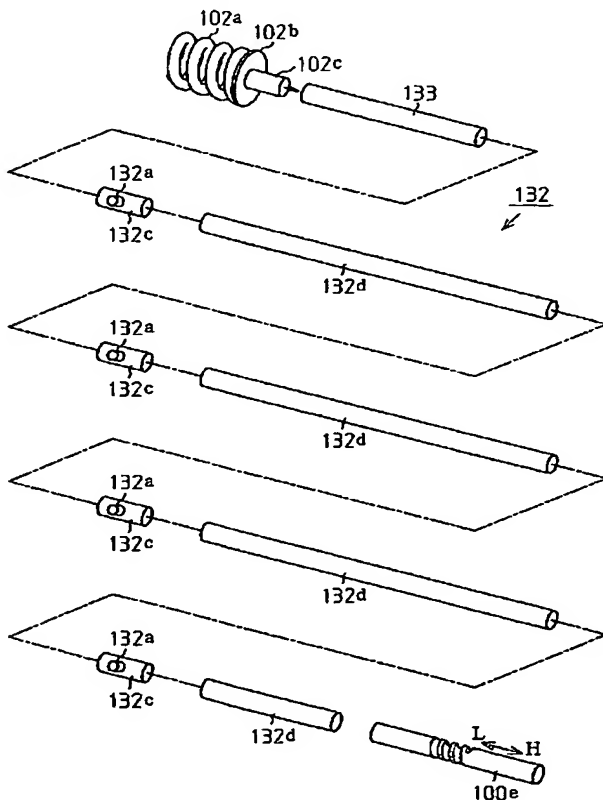
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(54) Title: **VARIABLE VALVE ACTUATION MECHANISM FOR AN INTERNAL COMBUSTION ENGINE**



(57) Abstract: Engaging portions 132c, each of which is engaged with a slider gear, are made of an iron based material, and coupler shafts 132d are made of an aluminum alloy material that is the same material as that of a cylinder head. Therefore, compared to a case where the control shaft 132 is entirely made of an iron based material, the thermal expansion coefficient of the control shaft 132 is closer to that of the cylinder head. Therefore, even if the ambient temperature changes, the position of each engaging portion 132c relative to the cylinder head is prevented from being displaced. Also, since the engaging portions 132c are made of an iron based material, the engaging portions 132c have a sufficient strength, which prevents the control shaft 132 from being deformed.

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